

Dr. R. E. Holttum — Eightieth Celebration

by

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On 30 July 1975, some 75 friends and colleagues gathered in the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, at the kind invitation of the Director, Professor J. H. Heslop-Harrison, to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Dr. Richard Eric Holttum.

The occasion was organised by a group representing the Linnean Society of London (from which Dr. Holttum was presented with the Linnean Medal in 1964), the British Pteridological Society (of which he was a Past President) and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, at which Holttum spent most of his retired, but hard-working, hours.

After sherry in the Staff Common Room guests assembled in the Lecture Theatre to applaud a number of presentations to Eric Holttum made by distinguished guests on behalf of well-wishers both in England and abroad. Mr. P. M. Brenan, Deputy Director of R. B. G. Kew, representing the Director who was unfortunately abroad, presided over the proceedings. He welcomed the guests and presented Dr. Holttum, on behalf of the Director and staff of Kew, with a picture of *Holttumara* 'Cochineal' painted by Rosemary Lowe from material specially sent from Singapore.

Professor Irene Manton, President of the Linnean Society of London, then presented Dr. Holttum with a portrait of himself drawn by Mrs. Julia Pannett and subscribed to by friends and colleagues in the United Kingdom, Singapore, New Guinea, New Zealand, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, United States of America, Jamaica, South Africa and India. Professor Manton went on to present him with a special issue of the *Fern Gazette*, the journal of the British Pteridological Society, published on that day in Holttum's honour. It was then the turn of Dr. G. Seidenfaden, formerly Danish Ambassador to Thailand and a well-known orchidologist, who rose to read a statement of good wishes from the President, Mr. Quek Kiah Huat, and Members of the Orchid Society of South-East Asia, and presented Holttum with a gold medal struck by the Society to commemorate his eightieth birthday. Telegrams and letters of good wishes were then read from Mr. A. G. Alphonso, Deputy Commissioner i/c Singapore Botanic Gardens; the Singapore Branch of the Malayan Nature Society; Mr. John Ede, President of the Singapore Gardening Society; and Dr. R. M. Tryon, President of the American Fern Society.

At this point, Mrs. Jean Brenan, presented Mrs. Ursula Holttum with a bouquet of flowers, whereupon Professor C.G.J.J. van Steenis, formerly Director of the Rijksherbarium, Leiden, on behalf of colleagues at Leiden and the Flora Malesiana Foundation, presented Holttum with a live young plant of *Platyserium holttumii* Hennipm. and Joncheere.

The guests had a pleasant walk through the Gardens to the Restaurant where they enjoyed a dinner given in Dr. Holttum's honour. The guest speakers, Mr. Henry Schollick, President of the British Pteridological Society and Professor C.G.J.J. van Steenis gave short but amusing speeches, befitting the informality

of this delightful and memorable occasion, Eric Holttum, dressed in a colourful Singapore shirt, replied both to the presentation before dinner and to the salutations of the after-dinner speeches.

Even the English weather celebrated the occasion: a screen temperature of 30°C was recorded that day at Kew.

Guests at

Professor Holttum's Birthday Celebrations

30 July 1975

Dr C. D. Adams	Prof. Irene Manton
Mr G. Black	Mr P. McKenzie Black
Dr D. F. Blaxell	Mr W. Marais
Mr & Mrs J. P. M. Brenan	Dr & Mrs R. Melville
Mr F. H. Brightman	Dr & Mrs Panigrahi
Mr H. J. Bruty	Mrs J. Pannett
Mr & Mrs J. A. Crabbe	Mrs A. P. Passey
Dr & Mrs J. Croxall	Miss T. K. Power
Dr D. F. Cutler	Dr & Mrs D. A. Reid
Mr J. W. Dyce	Prof. & Mrs P. W. Richards
Mr & Mrs P. J. Edwards	Dr & Mrs N. Robson
Mr L. Forman	Mr H. Schollick
Dr & Mrs G. W. Gillett	Dr G. Seidenfaden
Dr A. D. Greenwood	Mrs P. Simmonds
Miss Mary Gregory	Dr Anne Sleep
Mr & Mrs J. W. Grimes	Dr & Mrs W. T. Stearn
Mr E. Hennipman	Prof. & Mrs C. G. G. J. van Steenis
Dr & Mrs G. Herklots	Mr P. Taylor
Miss D. Holttum	Mr P. Temple
Dr C. Hubbard	Dr & Mrs B. A. Thomas
Dr M. Jacobs	Dr J. Vaughan
Dr Frances Jarrett	Dr & Mrs T. G. Walker
Mr & Mrs A. C. Jermy	Mr P. J. Wanstall
Mr G. J. de Joncheere	Mr S. L. Williams
Mrs R. Lowe	Dr & Mrs T. C. Whitmore
Dr J. D. Lovis	Mr & Mrs J. S. Womersley
Mrs MacDougal	Mr & Mrs J. Woodhams